the consideration of the Government years ago, from the time of Dewan Mr. Raghaviah, your predecessor, Sir. If I remember correct and if I am not committing any breach of secret, one Dewan told me definitely when he passed orders on the file, that this particular question of printing maps should not be taken up from private agencies and should not be done by departmental agencies. So far as the map is concerned all that we desire is that it should be accurate and correct. Therefore the question that the map that is printed by the Survey Department and Survey Department alone will be correct is not a sound one. Again with regard to the supplementary grant, these maps have been purchased in 1107, 1108 and 1109 and the funds for purchasing these maps have been provided in the Education budget. Why then, I ask, this demand now. These maps can be printed and handed over to the Education Department who must pay for the map, as they now do in the case of purchasing the same from the private agencies. On that account also, I do not think this grant is necessary. At any rate that is a minor question.

As I began, as a representative of the Commerce and Industry Constitutency, I will be failing in my duty if I do not oppose this grant which is intended to kill the industry of map production in Travancore.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I support the demand. My friend, the representative for Commerce and Industry Constituency, need not have opposed it as a representative of that constituency. The major question that we have to consider now is price. The proposal of the Government is to print maps and not to impose something like our excise duty on maps. So long sa the Government can give cheaper and better maps to school children, I would certainly support the demand.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: For the reasons adduced by Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, I withdraw my opposition.

The demand was then put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XI—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 75 for the appointment of a full-time copyist on Rs. 15 per mensem in the Village Panchayat Court, Attingal, from the 1st Kumbham 1110.

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[Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai.]

That Court has at present only a piece-work copyist. Owing to the enlargement of the jurisdiction of the court by the addition of four pakuthies, the work has been increasing day by day. The piece-work copyist has been doing not only copying work but was also rendering some sort of assistance to the clerk, there being but one clerk in the court. This proposal was made by the court and has been supported by the High Court. If a full-time copyist is appointed he can render also some assistance to the clerk. Government have considered the matter and are of opinion that a full-time copyist may be appointed.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know whether the Attingal Panchayat Court is a Panchayat Court only or is also a Magistrate Court as well.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: It is only a Panchayat Court.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. The latest Ruling of the High Court, reported in 9 T. L. T., will show how business is being transacted in the Panchayat Court. The High Court say in their proceeedings as follows :—

> "The circumstances that have led up to the proceedings about which this reference is made have brought out prominently a state of matters concerned with the working of the Bench Magistrates' Court which is far from satisfactory. For reasons which cannot be said to be entirely fanciful, the Chairman constituted Special Benches and allocated particular cases for trial by them. Two Magistrates intruded and insisted upon the cases being tried by a Bench in which they also take part. This attempt failed, on account of the precautionary measure adopted by the Chairman, of putting the records within a sealed cover and giving directions to the clerk to hand them over only to a Special Bench constituted for their trial. Thus, there was in effect an unseemly tug-of-war between the Chairman and two of the Magistrates and the clerk was merely the victim of their mutual misunderstandings. In my judgment, this undesirable state of things was partly due to the want of adequate rules defining the powers of the President and the relations that should subsist between him on the one hand and his colleagues on the other. Section 12 B, Criminal Procedure Code, vests in Government the power to make rules for the guidance of the Magistrate's Benches respecting certain subjects and some rules have been, as a matter of fact, framed (*see* Regulations and Proclamations, Vol. 1, page 559). However, they are not sufficiently exhaustive to meet ordinary needs, and even as they stand they are not free from adverse comment (*see* Criminal Proceedings of the High Court No. 30 of 1102). Unless the Chairman has power to determine the personnel of the Benches and to allot the cases to be tried by them, there is possibility of clash as illustrated by this as well as other instances. No. 6 of the rules adverted to above is not sfficiently explicit, and it will be advisable if provision be made giving power to the Chairman in the directions indicated".

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President : I suppose the Honourable member would have done better if he had given us a precis of the quotation.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi : I am just closing, Sir.

"Recasting of the rules and the making good of omissions to meet the needs of Bench Magistrates' Courts in their everyday working appear to be imperative, for from experience it does not seem that the time is ripe for the Government to withdraw their guiding hand and leave things entirely to the good sense of the Magistrates; which should be done only when they are found able to subordinate personal rivalries to higher consideration of public good. I would therefore invite the attention of the Government to the defects and insufficiencies in the existing rules, for taking such action as may be deemed expedient."

I am sorry, Sir, that such a state of things happens in Panchayat Courts especially on account of the selection or non-selection by the Government of particular individuals.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether the member quotes that as a reason for not entertaining copyists ?

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi : This matter has been brought to the notice of the Government. But the Government are sleeping over it. Now a demand is placed before the House, and it is the duty of the legislature to point out to the Government the undesirability of not passing rules as early as possible to avoid this.

President : Very well, we will consider that.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XV—MEDICAL.

Mr. James Simpson : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 15,000 for improvements to the General Hospital.

Some eight weeks ago, I had to bring to the notice of Government the serious situation engendered in the General Hospital for want of accommodation. This hardship was due to a large increase in the number of patients during the past six months. We have in the General Hospital 191 beds. The average number of patients now is 400. You will understand that this has given rise to great hardship both to the patients and to the staff. I think, Gentlemen, you will agree—

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: The member may address the Chair.

Mr. James Simpson : I apologise, Sir.

President : You are speaking as in a public meeting.

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